

SPEECH DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION OF MY RETIREMENT FROM THE HELLENIC
'COMMUNITY OF ALBERTON HELD AT THE ALBERTON HELLENIC COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON THE 25TH NOVEMBER, 1989.

Mr, Master of Ceremonies, Your Grace ARchbishop Paul Lyngris,

Honourable the Ambassador for Greece Mr. Tsilas, Mrs. Tsilas,

Meneer Die Burgemeester Raadslid Smit en Mevrou Smit, Mr.

Consul Mrs. Georgi

General Mr. Georgiou, ou, Friends and fellow Community
members.

Thank you. It is indeed an occasion that will remain in the memories of my wife and I for the rest of our lives. Yes - undoubtedly through the odd 26 years that I served the Hellenic Community of Alberton and the 25 years as its Chairman, we felt that on many an occasion we were making personal sacrifices to sustain the Community. But on the other hand there was many an occasion when it brought us great pleasure and the moral rewards were tremendous as we saw the achievements and participation of the Community members in the Ecclesiastical, scholastic and cultural activities. The main purpose and target of the Community was being met. Indeed we gain great pleasure and satisfaction from serving our fellowman.

Thank you for making this big sacrifice to bestow this tremendous honour on my wife and I. An unforgettable occasion.

2/-, Mr. Ambassador, thank you for being with us this evening. That you have once again found the time in spite of your busy programme to be with the Hellenic Community of Alberton is much appreciated. A Community that has at all times excelled itself in all spheres in the assistance of local charities by providing help in local Hellenic and overseas problems, such as the invasion of Cyprus and so many other occasions - a Community that deserves to have personalities such as yourself and all our guests as its friends at all times.

1. al my en die gemeenskap.Afrikaans

Zes enkele woord uitgesproke deur die voorstaande heer, voorzitter van die Hellenic Community van Alberton.

VERHOLDING

VERSTANTHOLDING

Dr. my leser

Mr. Consul General, Mrs. Georgiou, thank you as well for being with us this evening once again. It really is nice to have you share this occasion with all of us - an honour to me. Mr. Consul General

allow me to say thank you to you and your office for at all times being of assistance to the Community providing us with good teachers for the schooling of our children, and for taking care of all as Chairman and I ha
your needs from time to time All this good and positive co-operation I enjoyed

ve no doubt that my successor will enjoy the same.

Mr. Chairman Mr. Nick Papadogiannakis, thank you to you and the Central Committee, Community members and all those who have helped make this wonderful occasion so memorable for my wife and I.

Briefly, the Hellenic Community of Alberton like all other Communities was formed to retain the culture and heritage of the Hellenes in the Republic of South Africa. To create a forum where the scholastic, Ecclesiastical and cultural needs of the Hellenes would be met. Thanks to the assistance of one and all, this was achieved by what was once upon a time a handful of Hellenes in Alberton. Today the Hellenic Community of Alberton is undoubtedly a force that has to be reckoned with and is much respected in all spheres.

Another one of the main reasons for the founding of the Hellenic Community of Alberton, which up to the early 60's had always operated as an organised and closed society - serving the needs of its few children - the Ecclesiastical needs been met by the Hellenic Community of Johannesburg - was the fact that there was a sudden settlement of many new Hellenic immigrants in the early 60's and we were ^{all} faced with the problem of how to assimilate the newcomers into the broader Community of Alberton and the Republic. Many of us having either grown up, brought up as immigrants or those who were [^]immigrants, knew

what the hardships were and no effort was spared to provide this platform for the newcomers;

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We must bear in mind however, that we also welcomed these newcomers because it was a fresh injection into the lives of the existing Hellenes it was a pleasure to have contact with those who lived, thought Greece at all times.

The process of assimilation was well achieved and the results were beyond expectations with the participation of almost all the Hellenes within the framework of the Community.

Proudly however, I must mention that although it was one of the prime targets to assimilate the newcomers into the Hellenic Community and the broader Republic Community, it was found that the willingness, helpfulness, understanding and hospitality of the Hellenic Community of Alberton was such that soon we were also assimilating the English and Afrikaans speaking members of the broader Alberton Community into its midst and a wonderful understanding was created, especially between the Town Council of Alberton and all the welfare and school organisations. This hall served as the Alberton Town Hall and Community Centre for almost 15 years before the erection of the new prestigious Alberton

Civic Centre. All these achievements made us very proud indeed. *Socially*
Above all the world wide reflected Greek Culture made SA do more as well

The Souvlaki and the Sirtaki took its aright,ful place in the Community.

Yes Ladies and Gentlemen, I was always proud and privileged to lead such a group of people, a group of people that at all times gave me the assistance that was needed.

A Community that did not bother with^ small and trivial problems that are found in such organisations. A Community which portrayed steadiness and good organisation at all times.

A Community which in its 27 years only had 3 treasurers in
Mr. Philip Georgiou Mr. Peter Kalivitis now both Honorary Life

Vice Presidents, and for the past 10 years Mr. Peter Kandralides who is still the treasurer.

Vice Chairmen we have only had 4 - Mr. Philip Georgiou, Mr. Michael Nathaniel now also an Honorary Life Vice President, the Late Mr. Chris Billis and for the past 10 years Mr. Costa Marcandonatos whom I must say a very special word of thanks for his wonderful assistance that he has given me. Assistance that I needed because my task was well beyond that of Chairman of the Hellenic Community Alberton and at many of a time the everyday running had to be left to my wonderful Committee and Sub-Committee's.

Honorary Secretaries, the Community was privileged to have only 2 - my friend Mr. George Dracatos ~~to give me some small assistance but stayed~~ and one who was roped ^{Bob} of almost 18 years and Mr. George Georgiou the on for the best part *I am very fond of my nephew.* current Honorary Secretary ■

I was Honorary Secretary for ~~several years during the~~ ^y period of the Chairmanship of Mr. Costa Zonomessis. //

Bringing into existance a very good and professionally run school with the assistance of the Consul General's offices, our Church with the continuous assistance and support of His Grace, Archbishop Paul Lyngiris. The introduction of the Cultural Committee founded and ably lead by Mr. Basil Markatselis, the Ladies Committee, the Church and School Committee, all assisting in the assimilation of the newcomers and the strengthening of the Hellenic Community of Alberton into what it is today. A RESPECTED COMMUNITY - WITH ALL THE VIRTUES- THAT OUR FORE FATHERS HANDED DOWN TO US. A COMMUNITY WHICH PROUDLY RETAINS ITS RICH AND ACKNOWLEDGED HERITAGE AND CULTURE.

Thank you to all, please forgive me if I do not mention all the names I wish to because I really would fear to leave out a name on this occasion.

May I also mention that there was a minimum turnover of Central Committee members and the changes only coming about by either-immigxation -such as~Mr; Stanley Nathaniel or the passing away of our friends and those I could call founder members, the Late Mr. Nick Papageorge, Basil Kapousousoglou .and my dear friends Christo Billis and Nick Seretis.

The fact that there was such a small turnover of office bearers portraying both the satisfaction of the Community members with the work being done, but more important it showed the willingness and the sacrifice being made by these individual members to serve the Community and the society.A task performed' without seeking rewards of medals and honours. The thank you of our society is the best reward that these people deserve.

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Nico, I know too well the duties and sacrifices that are expected of you, but knowing you for the past 20 years, the type of person you are, your qualities, your integrity, your drive and enthusiasm

I am very happy to know that our Committee have chosen the most suitable leader who with the help of our dear Lord is going to lead our *You will enjoy the same support.* Community to better and greener pastures.

The undertaking to build this hall in 1966, the building of our Church in 1971, the founding of our school premises next door. All this was achieved by consensus and the highest level of support one could expect from a wonderful team.

I enjoyed the full support and backing of my Committee and members of the Community, here I must thank Mr. Costa Marcandonatos and the then Honorary Secretary Mr. George Dracatos and the Committee members when

I undertook the venture to found and unite the Communities of the Transvaal into the Federation of the Hellenic Communities of the Transvaal, which in recent years ha^e become the Federation of the Hellenic Communities of South Africa.

I thank my Committee and Community for standing by me when I had to put my full ~~weight~~ ^{weight} behind the Saheti movement and assist my friend ²¹² George Bizos and our colleagues of the Saheti Board, to bring Saheti to the ~~as-~~ stage that it is today. An institution that every Hellene is proud of in the Republic.

Churches, the building of Saheti, ■
it is a big investment in the
Republic by the Hellenh which
underlines the confidence they have
in their adopted homeland and
obviously in the majority of cases,

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r) eavx6 pov xai TIC
TOV EXXrjvuapod TT)C

5 *Van Michael j. Ammousis of the Republic
Albionti j. lewora*

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Ladies and Gentlemen, I take this opportunity as well this evening
to thank the Committee for introducing what I anticipate can become
Fund continue to serve society
the prime need and target of the Hellenic Community of Alberton.

Namely - the founding, the creation of HELLENIC COMMUNITY OF ALBERTON
TRUST FUND - in order to ensure that funds and capital will be available
at all times to ensure the continuity of the Hellenic Community of
Alberton. I thank Mr. Nick Papadogiannakis the Chairman and the
Established
Committee for adopting this motion. I have no doubt that all will
strongly support this movement and knowing Alberton the way I do, that
within a reasonable time we will have a Trust that will make us very
proud.

My family and I will very proudly associate ourselves with this Trust.
I do not consider this the occasion to announce any type of con
tribution, but we will make our rightful contribution at the right time.

Last but not least, I wish to thank my wife Olga whom I know had to make tremendous sacrifices. My children for the sacrifices they made by not having their father with them and on many an occasion, their mother^had to be away as well^while they were still toddlers. I apologise if they felt this was a shortcoming in our family life. I know they unhesitantly felt at all times that their father had become an investment of the Hellenic Community - not only of Alberton but of many other Hellenic organisations on which I have had to serve. They felt they were not enjoying the parenthood that they were entitled to as children. However, I thank them for their support, their perseverance and I have no doubt that what has been achieved in the retention of our culture and heritage will more than make up for this loss in quantity of time.

I have no doubt that we all will benefit from these fruits because remember any person who does not acknowledge his past, treasure his history, has not got a future.

*to our Tazi, B/other Ladies.
Si, L*

I also thank my brother Arthur and sister Kiki, for having been patient with me and carrying the weight of our family business whilst I was out seeking support and assistance for the cause.

Once again, my dearest friends, thank you for this wonderful honour bestowed on me and for making it such a memorable occasion, this reward really has made it worth my while and effort. Thank you and God bless to all.

Greek. I will treasure the title you has foisted on me.

Mr. G. Georgiou

P. Stathoulis

2nd November, 1989.

PS/RW 11/4

George,

INVITATION LIST

I enclose a copy of people whom I would like to invite to the function. Some are important to the Community and Community good supporters, whilst a few are my personal friends. have been

Please be free to omit whoever you wish.

Kindest regards.

encl.

INVITATIONS

1. Mr. & Mrs. A.H. Joubert P.O. Box 1052,
RUSTENBURG.
0300
2. Mr. & Mrs. J.J.F. Meiring P.O. Box 70468,
BRYANSTON.
2021
3. Prof. & Mrs. R. Conacher 27 St. Andrews Road,
PARKTOWN,
JOHANNESBURG.
2193
4. Mr. & Mrs. L.J. van Pletzen P.O. Box 1040,
ALBERTON.
1450
5. Dr. & Mrs. V. Botoulas Suite 8, Kenridge Medical
Centre,
25 Eton Road,
PARKTOWN,
JOHANNESBURG.
2193
6. Mr. & Mrs. D.J.
Deysel (Residential
address
~~20 Joyce Street,~~
Alberante Extension,
ALBERTON.
1450) P.O. Box 20,
ALBERTON.
1450
7. Mr. & Mrs. A. de Guisti P.O. Box
20,
ALBERTON.
1450
(Residential address
~~4 Jumper Street,~~
Southcrest,
ALBERTON.
1450)
8. Mr. & Mrs. S. Tzivganos Westdene Stores,
4 Lanyon Street,
BENONI.
1501
9. Mr. & Mrs. L.J. de Swardt P.O. Box
565,
ALBERTON.
1450
10. Mr. & Mrs. D. Luscos P.O. Box
266,
ALBERTON.
1450
11. Mr. & Mrs. G.D.R. Kaliman P.O. Box 1460,
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ALBERTON.
1450

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INVITATIONS (cont.)

12.	Mr. & Mrs. C. Kerdache	14 Louw Wepener Street, Alberante, <u>ALBERTON.</u> 1450
13.	Mr. & Mrs. G.R. Fotinakis	P.O. Box 2499, <u>JOHANNESBURG.</u> 2 0 00
14.	Mr. & Mrs. C. Phitidis	P.O. Box 2499, <u>JOHANNESBURG.</u> 2000
15.	Mr. & Mrs. J.S. Strachan	P.O. Box 1144, <u>ALBERTON.</u> 1450

Invokan

Marijke ✓
Bart
Johu.

② Henne Johu ✓ Mr. Mrs. Adt. Jacob. -
Mary ✓ M. M. Meining -
Conack ✓ Conack -
Van Peltgen ✓ M. M. van Peltgen -
Bobby. ✓ Dr. Mrs. V. Rat. 1
Spandts ✓ Strachan. 2.
Rutie Beijst ✓ M. Bulman.
de J. G. F. ✓ Calbster
Lusco. -
Helen Tongenes ✓
de Swaert ✓ Z. J. de Swaert -
Mr. McAlmon. Kahn. Mr. McAlmon.
Kendrick C. Kersdache ✓ Lowen Deneen St.
Pitich / Fatinich ✓ Alkmaar.